

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 3, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1528

Introduced by Assembly Member Cohn

February 21, 2003

~~An act to add Sections 1342.9 and 1357.19 to, and to add Division 100 (commencing with Section 100000) to, the Health and Safety Code, and to add Sections 12712.7 and 12714.5 to the Insurance Code, relating to health care. An act relating to health care coverage.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1528, as amended, Cohn. Healthy California Act of 2003.

Existing law provides health care coverage programs to segments of the population meeting specified criteria who are otherwise unable to obtain health care coverage.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact the Healthy California Act of 2003 to ensure access to health care coverage for all Californians.

~~Existing law provides health care coverage programs to segments of the population who are otherwise unable to obtain health care coverage and who meet various eligibility requirements. These programs include the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk~~

~~Medical Insurance Board, and the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Services.~~

~~This bill would enact the Healthy California Act of 2003. The bill would create the California Essential Health Benefits Program which would be administered by the Managed Risk Medical Board to ensure access to health care coverage for all Californians. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to require employers to pay an assessment for health care coverage purposes unless the employer provides its employees and dependents with the essential health benefits that are offered by the program. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to require the program to offer health care coverage to employees of employers who pay the program assessments for health care coverage. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to require the Employment Development Department to collect these assessments. The bill would provide that these assessments would not be imposed unless authorized by a later enacted statute.~~

~~The bill would create the Essential Health Benefits Fund, which would be funded by assessments on employers and premiums from individuals who elect to purchase essential health benefits from the program.~~

~~The bill would provide that the program is not subject to licensure or regulation by the Insurance Commissioner or the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to distribute a form prepared by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board containing information about the program. The bill would make other related changes.~~

~~Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes no. State-mandated local program: no.~~

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. — Section 1342.9 is added to the Health and Safety~~
- 2 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact the~~
- 3 ~~Healthy California Act of 2003 in order to ensure access to health~~
- 4 ~~care coverage for all Californians by all of the following:~~
- 5 ~~(a) Enacting a standard uniform benefit package that is~~
- 6 ~~universally available without barriers through health care service~~
- 7 ~~plans and health insurers.~~
- 8 ~~(b) Requiring individual responsibility and accountability to~~
- 9 ~~secure and maintain health care coverage.~~

1 (c) *Ensuring that all persons eligible for Medi-Cal, the Healthy*
2 *Families Program, or other governmental health care coverage or*
3 *assistance are enrolled in the specific program and receive the*
4 *services to which they are entitled.*

5 (d) *Requiring universal employer participation.*

6 (e) *Providing public support, in varying degrees, for all*
7 *persons, through tax policies, subsidies, and sponsorships.*

8 (f) *It is the goal of this act to achieve the maximum feasible*
9 *enrollment of Californians in health plans that offer, at a minimum,*
10 *a standard uniform benefit package to all individuals.*

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13 **All matter omitted in this version of the**
14 **bill appears in the bill as amended in the**
15 **Assembly, June 2, 2003 (JR 11)**
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